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LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

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Chief Public Health Inspector

GEORGE LEEDER, Cert.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

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Office Staff

Mrs. P. A. Millbery (Resigned 21.7.68.)

Mrs. H. Pantlin (Appointed 8.7.68.)

Miss G. Blundell (Resigned 14.7.68.)

Miss V. Constant (Appointed 1.7.68.)

Sanitary Foreman/Rodent Officer

T. FEARN

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1968

To the Chairman and Councillors,
Lichfield Rural District Council.

It is again my pleasant duty to present my statutory annual report on the health of the district and on the work of the Health Department of the Council.

As it would obviously be quite impossible to make worthwhile comments in this introduction on the subjects covered in this report, I make no attempt to do so, apart from the general observation that the picture shown is a reasonably satisfactory one.

I again take this opportunity of thanking Members and other Officers for their continued help and co-operation during 1968, and for the very important contributions made to material contained in this report from the various sources mentioned in the text.

C. E. JAMISON

Medical Officer of Health.

Rural Council House,
September, 1969.



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GENERAL STATISTICS

The figures set out below show the area in acres, the population as estimated by the Registrar General, the number of occupied houses, the total rateable value of rateable properties of all types and the product of a penny rate :-

Area (in acres)	83,527
Population	53,180
Numbers of Inhabited Houses	16,650
Total Rateable Value of Properties	£1,994,112
Product of a Penny Rate	£8,199

It may be noted that the figure given for population shows, on this occasion, a relatively greater increase than might be expected from the increase in the number of inhabited houses. It must be remembered, however, that, as stated above, the figure for population is merely an estimate, while, as indicated in my report last year, the figure for inhabited houses does not take account of the quite large number of caravans occupied residentially, but not separately rated.

VITAL STATISTICS

The main statistics relating to births, stillbirths and deaths are set out below in the same form as in previous years.

Live Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	675	608	1,283
Illegitimate	26	20	46
Totals	701	628	1,329

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population = 25.0

Stillbirths	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	13	12	25
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Totals	14	12	26

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 Total Births = 19

<u>Deaths in Infants under One Week</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	7	12
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	6	9	15
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Perinatal Mortality per 1,000 Total Births = 30

<u>Deaths in Infants under Four Weeks</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	8	13
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	6	10	16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Neonatal Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 12 0

<u>Deaths in Infants under One Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	13	11	24
Illegitimate	1	2	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	14	13	27
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births = 20 0

<u>Deaths (All Ages)</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	290	270	560

Death Rate per 1,000 Population = 10.6

It may be noted that 47 live births and stillbirths out of a total of 1,355 were illegitimate, giving a proportion of one in every 29. This figure compares with one in 32 in 1967, one in 34 in 1966, one in 27 in 1965, one in 28 in 1964, one in 25 in 1963, one in 17 in 1962, one in 33 in 1961, one in 26 in 1960, one in 30 in 1959 and 1958 and one in 22 in 1957. It will be seen that the figures vary to a rather surprising extent from year to year, but this is, no doubt, related in part to the large variations in statistical rates which tend to occur when relatively small figures are being dealt with.

Although the stillbirth rate in illegitimate pregnancies is slightly higher than in legitimate ones and the various mortality rates relating to infant mortality higher in illegitimate infants than in legitimate infants on this occasion, which can be a very significant fact, relating to the standard of infant care, I would hesitate to attach too much significance to it in any one year, bearing in mind the remark made in my

last paragraph and also the fact that, over the years, no significant disparity between the two rates has been shown locally.

The following table shows how the figures for 1968 compare with those for immediately preceding years :-

Year	Estimated Population	Live Birth Rate	Still-birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
1955	42,580	12.7	27.1	9.3	18.6	10.9
1956	41,250	14.3	23.2	22.0	27.1	10.9
1957	40,100	15.7	14.0	26.8	31.5	10.5
1958	38,850	15.4	22.8	13.4	23.4	10.3
1959	39,500	15.7	26.7	12.9	16.1	11.4
1960	40,660	16.2	23.7	10.6	19.7	11.3
1961	40,040	17.2	18.2	18.8	26.0	12.3
1962	40,710	17.9	14.9	24.7	31.6	11.5
1963	41,950	18.6	12.7	10.3	12.8	10.8
1964	42,880	20.6	18.9	11.3	13.6	10.3
1965	44,730	24.4	18.9	9.2	11.0	11.6
1966	46,900	25.5	12.4	11.7	13.4	12.0
1967	49,070	26.5	12.1	18.4	23.8	10.8
1968	53,180	25.0	19.0	12.0	20.0	10.6

On scanning these figures, the picture shown is a rather mixed one. The live birth rate was high, but slightly less so than in either of the two preceding years. The stillbirth rate was appreciably higher than in the previous year, but the neonatal death rate was correspondingly lower, possibly due to the fact that certain factors existing before birth may lead either to stillbirth or, if stillbirth does not occur, to the birth of a weakly child, who may succumb early in the neonatal period. The infant death rate, relating to all deaths before the end of the first year, was well under that of the previous year but, unfortunately, above the average for the last five years. So far as the death rate at all ages is concerned, this was marginally below that for the previous year, and well below the average of the last five years.

After the usual adjustment of the birth and death rates, in accordance with the comparability factors provided by the Registrar General, in order to make them comparable, so far as age and sex distribution is concerned, with England and Wales, as a whole, the local and national figures for the main statistics are as follows :-

Place	Live Birth Rate	Still-Birth Rate	Neonatal Death Rate	Perinatal Death Rate	Infant Death Rate	Death Rate (All Ages)
Lichfield Rural District	24.0	19.0	12.0	30.0	20.0	11.0
England and Wales	16.9	14.3	12.4	24.7	18.3	11.9

It will be seen that, even after the statistical adjustment mentioned above, the birth rate was still substantially above the national average, due without doubt to the tendency for children to be born in large numbers in the young families moving into new housing estates. The perinatal death rate, relating to the combination of stillbirths and deaths before the end of the first week after live birth, and the infant death rate were, for 1968, above the national figures. It is fair to add that, owing to the relatively small figures being dealt with, already mentioned, these figures have fluctuated widely in recent years, the figures for other recent years being outstandingly low. Even after statistical adjustment for age of population, the death rate was significantly below the national average.

The following table shows the causes of death, during the year, of persons ordinarily resident in the district, regardless of where the death actually occurred, figures for other recent years being included for purpose of comparison :-

Cause of Death	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	Total 1967	1968		
						Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	3	1	1	-	1	1	2
Tuberculosis, Other	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Syphilitis Disease	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	2	-	1	-	3	3	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	9	14	6	13	4	5	3	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	15	18	15	15	15	16	3	19

Cause of Death	Total 1963	Total 1964	Total 1965	Total 1966	Total 1967	1968		
						Male	Female	Total
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	10	8	10	13	8	—	6	6
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	3	2	3	3	2	—	5	5
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	33	22	37	45	34	27	13	40
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	2	1	5	3	2	1	3
Diabetes	3	1	4	7	3	1	4	5
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	64	74	78	70	58	33	52	85
Coronary Disease, Angina	69	89	114	95	166	70	57	127
Hypertension with Heart Disease	11	5	8	14	6	3	4	7
Other Heart Disease	47	47	44	48	24	11	13	24
Other Circulatory Disease	17	10	12	23	24	10	14	24
Influenza	1	3	1	6	—	2	2	4
Pneumonia	48	35	67	79	63	29	26	55
Bronchitis	26	18	32	24	21	20	7	27
Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	8	7	10	10	6	2	4	6
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	6	5	4	3	4	—	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	2	—	3	2	1	—	1
Gastritis, Enteritis and Disrrhoea	2	1	2	1	—	3	2	5
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	4	—	1	4	2	—	2
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	1	4	5	5	11	8	5	13
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	55	36	27	51	54	3	8	11
Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	14	18	13	10	11	9	20
All Other Accidents	8	6	11	11	6	2	1	3
Suicide	3	6	4	1	2	4	2	6
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	452	441	517	564	529	275	245	520

Taking the deaths as a whole, 15 occurred before the end of the first week of life, 1 further death between then and the end of the fourth week, 11 further deaths at ages between 4 weeks and 1 year, 4 at ages between 1 year and 5 years, 3 at ages between 5 years and 15 years, 7 at ages between 15 years and 25 years, 11 at ages between 25 and 35 years, 17 at ages between 35 and 45 years, 35 at ages between 45 and 55 years, 35 at ages between 45 and 55 years, 84 at ages between 55 and 65 years, 134 at ages between 65 and 75 years and the remaining 242 deaths at ages over 75 years of age.

Of the 15 deaths occurring before the end of the first week of life, five were attributed to congenital abnormalities, five to prematurity and three to birth injury or difficult labour, while prematurity was a factor in one of the remaining two deaths in this group. The one death occurring between one week and four weeks and four of the eleven deaths occurring between four weeks and one year were also attributed to congenital abnormalities. The main cause of death in the older infants was infectious disease, including pneumonia. Taking infant deaths as a whole, the picture is very largely as in other recent years, with congenital abnormality and premature birth clearly remaining as unconquered causes of mortality among infants.

Two of the four deaths occurring between one year and five years were also due to congenital abnormality, the remaining ones being attributed to bronchitis in one instance and to a motor vehicle accident in the other, the child being run over by a lorry while playing in the road.

Of the three deaths at ages between five years and fifteen years, one resulted from cancer and two from motor vehicle accidents, the victim being a pillion passenger on a motor-cycle.

In the case of adolescents and adults between 15 and 25 years of age, every single one resulted from a motor vehicle accident, illustrating only too clearly the fact that accidents involving motor vehicles, particularly motor-cycles, constitute the outstanding hazard to life in this age-group at the present time.

Taking deaths as a whole, 376 out of 564 occurred at ages over 65 years and 242 of these were in persons over 75 years of age. Male deaths exceeded female deaths in all but two age-groups, these being at ages below four weeks and over 75 years, very much a case of the extremes of life. I do not think that the disparity in the former age-group is significant, but that in the latter age-group shows once more the greater longevity of the female, as compared with the male.

Examination of the figures relating to the various types of cancer, as they affect different organs, shows that deaths from cancer of the lung and bronchus, at 19, considerably exceed those from cancers of breast and uterus, at 11, put together. These figures confirm the impression, mentioned in my last report, that more attention should be paid to this comparison, in view of the large-scale campaign for the extension of

cervical cytology, which is usually associated with instruction in the technique of self-examination of breasts, in an effort to detect breast cancer in the early stages, while treatment can be satisfactorily undertaken. Desirable though this work is, one is struck by the enormous effort being put into this field, while little or no attention is paid to a related one, responsible for far more deaths, where an important factor, i.e. cigarette smoking, is only too well known, and is capable of control in at least a very considerable degree, if the necessary action to control advertising in its various forms were taken at national level.

The main cause of death, taking all age-groups together, was, of course, diseases of the heart and circulatory system, which between them accounted for 275 out of the total of 564 deaths. These deaths were, of course, mostly in the older age-groups, apart from ischaemic heart disease, or coronary thrombosis, which killed three people before 45 years of age, a further eight, all males, between 45 and 55 years, 20, of whom 15 were male, between 55 and 65 years, 37, almost equally male and female, between 65 and 75 years and 59 persons, with a preponderance of females, at ages over 75 years. It would certainly seem that, as a community, we, and particularly middle-aged men, are paying a high price for the over-eating, excessive smoking and sedentary mode of living which are believed to be important factors in the incidence of this type of disease.

Among respiratory diseases, pneumonia and bronchitis were again the main killers, mostly at ages over 55 years, with the usual excess of male deaths, largely attributable to cigarette smoking, in the case of bronchitis. Influenza, as in other recent years, accounted for very few deaths indeed, and then almost entirely in the very elderly.

Deaths due to motor vehicle accidents have been referred to in earlier paragraphs, in relation to certain age-groups. It need only be added, at this stage, that five deaths occurred at ages between 25 and 35 years, one death only between 35 and 55 years, two only between 45 and 75 years and one in a person over 75 years of age. If one considers these deaths in relation to the total of 20 deaths resulting from this cause, one cannot help being struck by the enormous preponderance in younger age-groups, likely to be quite out of line with the proportion of car and motor-cycle users in those age-groups, and must conclude that the impetuosity and love of speed, characteristic of youth, is a very important factor in deaths from this cause.

Of the three deaths due to accidental causes not related to motor vehicles, one resulted from fracture of a thigh bone caused by slipping on a damp patch of linoleum, one from drowning and one from an industrial accident, when a workman fell through a roof.

Suicidal deaths were, unfortunately, much more numerous than in any year since 1964. Three, all in middle-aged persons, were due to barbiturate poisoning, one to coal-gas poisoning, one to gunshot wounds

and one to multiple injuries. Four of the suicides occurred in males. In view of the attention now being, quite rightly, focused on the loneliness and other problems of old age, it is interesting to note that the oldest victim of this tragic type of happening was a man of 62 years.

It is again pleasant to be able to record that no death was attributed during the year to either pregnancy, abortion or childbirth.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases, other than tuberculosis, notified during the year and also the number of cases of each disease notified during the preceding ten years:-

Disease	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Measles	258	196	61	768	56	674	199	342	311	371	378
Whooping Cough	22	27	50	13	11	6	27	6	22	14	15
Scarlet Fever	35	43	39	15	4	6	8	21	25	15	23
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Erysipelas	3	1	1	-	3	-	-	2	-	1	-
Dysentery	8	23	-	9	21	5	3	6	16	16	27
Food Poisoning	6	3	61	6	18	4	-	2	1	2	4
Influenzal Pneumonia	33	69	34	59	26	23	9	29	32	10	61
Infective Hepatitis											11
Encephalitis											1
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	1	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	2	1	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-

The number of cases of measles was again a large one, in spite of the high figure for each of the preceding three years. As anticipated in 1967, the small vaccination campaign was not on a sufficient scale to affect very

materially the incidence of the disease in 1968. Assuming that present shortage of vaccine does not continue too long, I am confident that the picture in future years will reflect the considerable effort now being expended in this field.

The small number of cases of whooping cough satisfactorily rewards the efforts made, over a period of years, to secure vaccination of all infants against this disease.

One can regard the relatively small number of scarlet fever notifications as further evidence of the efficiency of present measures to control this disease, without recourse to either vaccination or hospitalisation.

Although the number of cases of bacillary dysentery was fairly large, over half of these occurred in a relatively small number of family outbreaks in one part of the district, and almost all the cases in the Colton, Hamstall Ridware, Hill Ridware and Blithbury area. The disease appeared to respond well to the antibiotic drugs used for its control by the general practitioners concerned.

Of the four cases of food poisoning notified, two occurred in one family, who were involved in a rather larger outbreak of food poisoning originating in an adjoining area. These cases were due to an organism which does not give rise to a "carrier" condition. One of the remaining cases was also clearly linked with a case in an adjoining area, separate and distinct from the outbreak mentioned above. This patient responded, after a period of time, to treatment for the "carrier" condition which developed. The last case occurred in a hospital nurse, and was investigated fully, but with negative bacteriological result. This patient recovered quite quickly, and no public health problem arose.

Although the number of cases of influenzal pneumonia notified was large, they did not create any great anxiety, so far as public health was concerned.

Infective hepatitis only became notifiable in June. The number and types of case notified so far would suggest that small outbreaks of this disease do occur from time to time in individual parishes. It would seem that the most important preventive measures are securing co-operation of parents in limiting mixing of affected children with others and in withdrawing of other children in the family from school at the earliest sign of infection. Limited disinfection of lavatory seats, door-handles, wash-basin taps etc., has been undertaken on a couple of occasions, but it is not possible to be dogmatic on the part which these measures played in lessening the spread of this disease.

So far as tuberculosis is concerned, the position in 1968 was much less satisfactory than in other recent years, four pulmonary infections

being diagnosed in males at ages from 48 years to 90 years and two in females, one being in a woman of 44 years and one in a child of five years. The infection in the elderly man had probably been present, unsuspected, for a number of years. Two of the other infections occurred in household contacts of existing cases of the disease, of which one was previously unsuspected. One case of non-pulmonary infection occurred in an elderly woman. The pattern of infection shows that, as in some other recent years, quite a large number of the new infections are being diagnosed in the elderly and middle-aged, rather than in the adolescent, in which a large proportion of the cases used to occur. Two deaths resulted from pulmonary tuberculosis, both occurring in newly diagnosed patients, one of these being the elderly male referred to above. In each case, treatment could not be instituted in time to affect the result. Two other deaths resulted from non-pulmonary forms of the disease, one of these also occurring in a very elderly patient.

Arrangements for surveillance and contact tracing continued as in previous years, the Tuberculosis Health Visitor working in close co-operation with the Chest Physicians at the local Chest Clinics.

The following table shows how the numbers of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease in 1968 compare with those for other recent years :-

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
1953	15	15	2	1	3	3	-	-
1954	17	20	5	2	8	1	-	1
1955	10	8	2	3	-	-	-	-
1956	9	9	2	1	-	-	-	-
1957	14	10	1	1	1	-	-	1
1958	11	3	2	2	2	-	-	-
1959	8	8	-	-	4	1	-	-
1960	5	5	-	1	3	1	-	-
1961	5	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1962	5	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
1963	5	3	-	1	1	1	1	-
1964	4	2	-	-	2	1	-	-
1965	2	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
1966	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
1967	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
1968	4	2	-	1	1	1	2	-

It must be admitted that, coming after the very good figures of recent years, the figures are somewhat disappointing. It would be much too early, however, to draw conclusions, particularly in such a small area, from figures relating to only one year.

ANTHRAX

Three notices were received during the year in relation to suspected anthrax infection in bovine animals, but the infection was not confirmed by bacteriological investigation in any of these cases.

No notification was received during the year in relation to any infection, suspected or confirmed, in a human being.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Facilities remained unchanged, and no complaints came to my notice to suggest that they are, in practice, inadequate, even though patients have got to travel to Burton, Stafford, Walsall or Birmingham for treatment.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

These also continued unchanged, and operated most satisfactorily, results being telephoned through at weekends where appropriate.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospital accommodation for patients suffering from infectious diseases again presented no particular difficulty, even though patients had to travel to hospitals in either Birmingham or Wolverhampton.

Maternity hospital facilities were also quite adequate for real medical or social needs, even though a number of mothers, not in the above categories, failed to secure admission.

Hospital accommodation for the elderly, and not so elderly, chronic sick patient continued to present real difficulty, although the provision of day hospital facilities at St. Michael's Hospital, Lichfield, did reduce the strain on the relatives of some patients. The use of a certain number of beds at Hammerwich Hospital for this type of patient was also very helpful. It is obvious, however, that the position will not be really satisfactory until additional beds are available at Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, for this type of patient. In the meantime, support of patient and relatives in the home, by local health authority services continued unchanged.

PERSONAL HEALTH SERVICES

The decision on the future control of these services, as regards day-to-day administration, was again postponed, pending national decision on local government reorganisation. In the interim period, the present link between environmental and personal health services, continued unchanged.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951

I am pleased to be able to record that, as in other recent years, no statutory action to compel removal to hospital or other institution proved to be necessary.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

The Council again made a number of grants to voluntary organisations undertaking, in their various parishes, to provide recreational facilities, usually including food, for the benefit of the elderly.

I compiled a booklet during the year, drawing attention to financial and other services available to this age-group. Although a very modest production, it was well received, and copies were made available, on request, to voluntary organisations operating outside the district.

FOOD

As on previous occasions, details of inspection of food premises and investigation of complaints from members of the public in relation to purchased food will be found in Mr. Leeder's section of the report. It is obvious that these very time-consuming duties have now become a very important part indeed of the Department's work.

The results of examination of samples of milk for cleanliness, efficiency of pasteurisation and sterilisation and presence of germs causing tuberculosis were as follows :-

GRADE OF MILK	RESULTS							
	Meth. Blue (Cleanliness)		(Pasteurisation)		(Sterilization)		(Tuberculosis)	
	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat	Sat	Unsat
Untreated	61	2	-	-	-	-	75	-
Pasteurised	412	7	412	-	-	-	-	-
Pasteurised Homeginised	54	1	55	-	-	-	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	-	-	4	-		
TOTALS	527	10	476	-	4	-	75	-

It will be noted that, apart from the methylene blue test, all results were completely satisfactory, showing, as all other recent years, the high degree of efficiency of the pasteurising and sterilising processes and also the success of the campaign carried out some years ago by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the elimination of tuberculous infection from bovine animals. Although it might seem, in these circumstances, that heat treatment of cow's milk is less important than previously, this is not really the case, as it is still required to deal with other germs, such as those causing undulant fever, which, in spite of the present campaign to eliminate abortus infection of cattle, are still found in raw milk from time to time.

Of 47 samples of milk taken by the County Council in its capacity as Food and Drugs Authority, all were found to be satisfactory except one sample of untreated milk.

Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer, has also made available to me the results of examination of 98 samples of a wide variety of groceries, fruit, confectionery, spirits etc., and of drugs of the type stocked in shops other than pharmacies. All samples were found to correspond in composition to the trade description, apart from one sample of slimming biscuits which were found to be incorrectly labelled. This offence was still under investigation at the time of the report.

WATER

I am indebted to Mr. Markham, Distribution Engineer to South

Staffordshire Waterworks Company for information relating to distribution arrangements and results of chemical and bacteriological testing of samples from various points in the distribution system during the year.

The results were, in general, similar to those recorded in earlier years although, in one or two instances out of a very large number, organisms of a relatively innocuous type were found, showing the need for vigilance and the value of testing procedures.

One must again record the lack of progress in this part of Staffordshire in arranging for fluoridation of water supplies, due to the difficulty in securing unanimous approval by the large number of local authorities whose areas are supplied by South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. However, as the position has not changed since the note in my last report, I make no further reference to the subject here, apart from expressing my disappointment that such a valuable public health measure should be so long delayed.

HOUSING

The Housing Manager has, as on previous occasions, supplied me with information relating to housing lettings, and their effect on the waiting list for Council houses, during the year. The principal figures were as follows :-

Waiting List at 1st January, 1968	...	...	...	726
(534 Tenants, 170 Lodgers, 22 Caravans)				
Rehoused in New Dwellings during 1968	...	...		128
Rehoused in Relet Dwellings during 1968	...	...		177
Waiting List at 31st December, 1968	...	...	...	625
(445 Tenants, 167 Lodgers, 13 Caravans)				

Of the total of 305 families rehoused during 1968, 73 families were rehoused from dwellings deemed to be unfit for human habitation and a further 11 families from caravans, which can be considered, at least in some respects, to come into a similar category, when used for permanent habitation. Unfortunately, it is very much more difficult to prevent a caravan being reoccupied than is the case with a house showing the same, or even much fewer, disadvantages for permanent occupation.

The figure of 73 rehousings from unfit houses in 1968 compares with figures of 35 families in 1947, 17 in 1966, 56 in 1965, 25 in 1964, 14 in 1963 and 61 in 1962. It will be seen that the recent figures exceeded those in any previous year, benefiting by lack of competition from the

need to rehouse occupants of temporary prefabricated dwellings. Rehousing of occupants of unfit houses in Elford and Fazeley, on which statutory action had been taken some years ago, was finally accomplished in 1968, or, in some cases, in the early part of the present year.

The following table shows the statutory action taken during 1968 in relation to houses deemed to be unfit for human habitation :-

PROPERTY	STATUTORY ACTION
3 and 5, Mill Lane, Fazeley	Closing Orders, 26th January, 1968.
30 and 32, New Street, Fazeley	Closing Orders, 26th January, 1968.
40, Union Street, Chasetown	Undertaking Accepted 26th April, 1968.
Yew Tree Cottages, 5 Brook End, Longdon	Undertaking Accepted 28th June, 1968.
Two Houses, Grand Lodge, Longdon	Undertaking Accepted 28th June, 1968.
15-23 (Odd Nos.) Back Lane, Whittington	Undertaking Accepted 27th September, 1968.
41, Back Lane, Whittington	Undertaking Accepted 27th September, 1968.
1 and 2, The Chalet, Tamworth Road, Botany Bay	Undertaking Accepted 27th September, 1968.
154 and 156, Ironstone Road, Chase Terrace	Undertaking Accepted 27th September, 1968.
Hawcroft Cottage, Hood Lane, Longdon	Undertaking Accepted 27th September, 1968.
1, 2 and 3, The Hill, Longdon	Undertaking Accepted 22nd November, 1968.
Yew Tree Cottages, 2, Brook End, Longdon	Undertaking Accepted 22nd November, 1968.

The total of 28 houses in respect of which action was taken in 1968 compared with figures of 20 in 1967, 22 in 1966, 28 in 1965, 28 in 1964, 55 in 1963, 37 in 1962, 25 in 1961, 70 in 1960, 18 in 1959, 8 in 1958, 37 in 1957, 22 in 1956 and 19 in 1955. As regards houses dealt with, it will be seen that these were mainly in Longdon, being linked with the completion during the year of the new housing estate there. This emphasises once more the very close connection between administrative action to secure clearance of unfit houses and the supply of houses required to rehouse occupants of unfit houses, within a reasonable period of time. The remaining clearance problem is largely one affecting Burntwood, Fazeley and Whittington Parishes. It would now appear that the outlook is favourable

in Burntwood Parish, where existing housing contracts should provide an adequate number of dwellings to allow clearance of unfit houses to be largely completed within a year or two from now, but less favourable in Fazeley and Whittington Parishes, where further not easily available land is required for the construction of replacement dwellings before clearance of unfit houses can be more or less finalised. It is obvious, of course, that further unfit houses will, even after the completion of the main programme of clearance, come to light from time to time, but it is felt that these will not be in numbers beyond those which can be dealt with, so far as rehousing is concerned, within the relettings of existing council dwellings which take place throughout each year.

Apart from progress being made in relation to clearance of unfit houses, I feel that it is well worthy of record that the new Longdon housing estate, mentioned in my previous paragraph, contained a welfare block with accommodation for 13 elderly persons or couples, assisted by a resident warden, bringing the provision of this very valuable type of housing accommodation up to a total of 109 dwellings in 7 schemes in 5 parishes, three being in Burntwood Parish, with one each in Alrewas, Armitage, Longdon and Shenstone Parishes. In addition, another is, of course, under construction in Fazeley Parish. Communal facilities were provided at the first unit in Burntwood Parish and in the one at Alrewas, but not in the later schemes. While the administration of this type of accommodation is within the Housing Manager's province rather than mine, I would take this opportunity of commenting on the very important and useful contribution which this type of accommodation is now making to the happiness and well-being of many elderly persons in this district.

SEWERS AND SEWAGE TREATMENT

(Prepared by Mr. K. Burkinshaw, C.Eng., A.M.I.Mun.E., A.M.Inst.H.E.
Engineer and Surveyor)

At the majority of the sewage treatment works throughout the Rural District the final effluent has been of a reasonable standard, and, on the whole, complies with the standard laid down by the Royal Commission. The Council's programme for modernising the existing works is now nearing completion, and the capital expenditure to date is in excess of one million pounds. However, several more contracts are still to be let, to provide sewerage and sewage disposal facilities in several more villages, i.e. kings Bromley, Alrewas and Fradley.

ALREWAS - The overload on these works continues to increase, but, due to the high rate of infiltration into the sewerage system, a reasonably satisfactory effluent is produced. At the works, an electricity supply has now been laid on which will allow the old diesel pump to be replaced by an electric motor. In the adjacent village of Fradley the sewerage system is unsatisfactory, and proposals to deal with this are being included in the proposed scheme for enlarging the treatment works at Alrewas, pumping the sewage from the village of Fradley to the new Works.

ARMITAGE AND LONGDON - The sewage treatment works situated at Armitage deals with the drainage from these parishes, the effluent from which is reasonable, and there continues to be a gradual improvement in the standard of final effluent. Several complaints have been received in respect of odour emanating from these works, and a portable deodorising machine has been installed to overcome this nuisance.

BRINDLEY HEATH - These works continue to produce satisfactory final effluent complying with the Trent River Authorities standards. A new type of clarifier has been installed at these works, which has resulted in a much higher standard of effluent being obtained.

BURNTWOOD - The second stage of the modernisation of these works is nearing completion, and at the present time the only items of plant still to be brought into operation are the heated digestion unit and the remaining five storm water tanks. With the maturing of the five small bacteria beds and recirculation of final effluent, the effluent now discharged is approaching the standard of the Trent River Authority. The new pumping station at Triangle is in operation and pumps the sewage which was formally treated at the Chasetown Sewage Works, to the new works at Burntwood. The Chasetown Sewage Works has now been closed, and a contract is to be let for the demolition and filling in of the tanks, with a view to this area of land being used for public open space purposes.

CLIFTON CAMPVILLE - Due to new houses being built in the village, and the infiltration of ground water into the sewerage system, it has been

necessary to carry out minor extensions to ensure that the final effluent continues to be of a satisfactory standard. Recently, larger pumps have been installed and the media in the bacteria beds have been increased in depth by 1 foot.

COLTON - Due to a small flow at present being received at these works, only part of the units constructed in the new Sewage Treatment Works are in service. This works continues to produce a satisfactory final effluent within the Trent River Authorities standards.

CURBOROUGH AND ELTHURST - This works continues to discharge a satisfactory final effluent, following the improvements that were carried out to the bacteria beds and the humus tank.

DRAYTON BASSETT - Excellent results are still being obtained from this new sewage treatment works, the effluent being to a very high standard.

EDINGALE - Work has commenced and is well advanced on the construction of a sewage treatment works and the sewerage of this village. It is anticipated that these works will be in operation by mid 1970.

ELFORD - The new works were brought into operation in 1968, and the works is producing a satisfactory effluent conforming to the Trent River Authorities standards.

FAREWELL AND CHORLEY - The small sewage treatment plant dealing with the council houses is operating satisfactorily, although the final effluent is only of average quality. A contract has recently been let to lay sewers and construct a pumping station to serve this parish, the sewage being pumped to the Burntwood works for treatment.

FAZELEY - Sewage from this area is dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works, the sewage discharging into the main trunk sewer in Watling Street, and passing under the canal into the Tamworth Borough. The two pumping stations serving this parish are both working satisfactorily.

FRADLEY - The plant dealing with the new council houses continues to operate satisfactorily, and produces a final effluent conforming to the Trent River Authorities standards. The sewerage system in general for the village is unsatisfactory, and it is proposed to deal with this within the scheme for Alrewas.

HAMSTALL RIDWARE - A contract has now been let for the sewerage of this village, and the construction of a new sewage treatment works.

HARLASTON - The existing treatment works is seriously overloaded, and the effluent from these works is very unsatisfactory. A Contract has recently been let to replace these works by a pumping station, which will

pump the sewage from this area to a new sewage treatment works at Edingale.

HOPWAS - Extensions have been carried out at these works, which include the rebuilding of one bacteria bed, the laying out of two grass plots, and the construction of a pumphouse. As a result of these extensions, these treatment works now produce a very high standard of final effluent, conforming to the standard laid down by the Trent River Authority: -

HINTS - The new sewage treatment works came into operation last year, but, due to the small flow at present received at these works, only part of the units as constructed are in service. The final effluent from these works is satisfactory, conforming to the Trent River Authorities standards.

KINGS BROMLEY - The effluent from the existing sewage tank continues to be very unsatisfactory, and a scheme has been prepared for the sewerage of this village, together with two new pumping stations. Several schemes have been prepared in respect of the treatment of the sewage from the village, the most recent scheme being planned to pump all the sewage from Kings Bromley to the Lichfield City works at Curborough.

MAVESYN RIDWARE - Due to the amount of development that has taken place recently in this village, the sewage works is seriously overloaded, with the result that it is not possible to produce a satisfactory effluent at all times. Several improvements have been made in that upward flow clarifiers have been installed, but, whilst these have made a slight improvement, the final effluent is still unsatisfactory, and further extensions will be necessary to the works to obtain a satisfactory effluent. During the year, trials have been carried out with chemical flocculents in an attempt to reduce the strength of the tank effluent and also to reduce the suspended solids in the final effluent, but neither of these experiments have been successful.

SHENSTONE - This works continues to produce a very high standard of effluent, but it will be necessary to replace the slow sand gravity filters with upward flow clarifiers to maintain a satisfactory effluent.

STONNALL - It has been necessary to install upward flow clarifiers at these works to reduce the high suspended solids content of the final effluent. These modifications have made some improvement to the final effluent, which is now satisfactory and conforms to the Trent River Authorities standards.

LITTLE ASTON - The sewage treatment works is situated at Little Aston, and deals with the drainage from part of the Aldridge/Brownhills Urban District and the Borough of Sutton Coldfield. Due to the amount of development which has taken place recently in this area, the single stage heated digestion unit is overloaded. Excellent results are still being maintained from this works, the effluent being of a very high standard.

STREETHAY - The final effluent from this works is satisfactory, and

conforms to the Trent River Authorities standards. The plastic filter media installed in the new primary filter continues to give excellent results, and remains in good condition.

SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON - The disposal works at Botany Bay to deal with the housing estate is working satisfactorily, and is producing a reasonable standard of effluent, but one which does not conform to the Trent River Authorities standards. It is proposed to purchase an additional plot of land to install a small pumping station, and grass plots, to give the final effluent tertiary treatment.

WALL - The final effluent discharged from these works is still very unsatisfactory, and the Council have agreed to replace the sewage treatment works with a pumping station, which will pump the sewage to the Burntwood Sewage Treatment Works.

WHITTINGTON - The new sewage treatment works has now been brought into operation, the final effluent from which is of a very high standard, conforming to the Trent River Authorities standards. Portable deodorising machines have been installed at these works to overcome complaints from nearby residents of odour nuisance.

WIGGINTON - Conditions in the portion of Wigginton parish which is sewered are quite good, the sewage being dealt with at the Tamworth Sewage Treatment Works.

WEEFORD - There is no change in the sewerage conditions existing in this parish.

LICHFIELD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1968

To the Chairman and Members,
Lichfield Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my report on the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1968.

In December 1968 we received the resignation of Mr. D. Hobday, Public Health Inspector, and the necessary action was being taken to secure a further appointment for the Department.

In general, the multifarious duties of the Public Health Inspectors were maintained at a reasonably satisfactory level, but it was very evident that special efforts would be required in certain sections of our duties in order to maintain more accurate and up-to-date records in the Department. It will be noted that appropriate action in this respect has already been initiated in relation to duties under the Factory Act, 1961, and also, in co-operation with the County Fire Brigade, in respect of licensed premises for the storage of petroleum spirit.

I must again express my appreciation of the support I have received from the Council and all their Officers during the year.

I am Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Yours obediently,

G. LEEDER

Chief Public Health Inspector

INSPECTIONS

The following table shows the number of visits and inspections made by public health inspectors to the various classes of premises etc:-

VISITS AND INSPECTIONS	NUMBER
Atmospheric Pollution	45
Civic Amenities Act	133
Drainage	384
Factories	227
Offices and Shops Act	196
Improvement and Conversion Grants	92
Slaughterhouses	52 *
Noise Nuisances	7
Offensive Trades	2
Petroleum-Spirit	276
Tents, Vans and Sheds	103
Theatres and Clubs	5
Refuse	51
Rodent Control and Pests	68
Water Supply	39
Food Hygiene Visits	692
Infectious Disease	39
Housing Visits and Revisits	509
Scrap Metals	7
Miscellaneous	94
TOTAL	2,931

* This figure does not include those visits necessarily carried out in connection with meat inspection duties, which involves approximately one-third of the Department's work.

Complaints and Notices

No. of complaints received	266
No. of nuisances detected as a result of investigation of complaints and routine duties	502
No. of informal notices served	522
No. of statutory notices served	10
Nuisances abated as a result of formal and informal action	95

PUBLIC CLEANSING

1st April, 1968 - 31st March, 1969

(a) Refuse Collection

This service continued throughout the year with very few complaints. The continued appreciation of the Council for the need to maintain a high standard in the provision of modern types of vehicle and equipment has been a major factor in the development of this service, in the face of a continually increasing growth of houses and population throughout the district.

(b) Refuse Disposal

Work on the construction of the new refuse incineration plant progressed very satisfactorily during the year. At the preparation of this report the plant has been brought into partial use for the purpose of test running. The practice of crude tipping is not yet over, but I look forward with confidence to the future, when this most unsatisfactory method of refuse disposal can be completely eliminated.

The total cost of the Public Cleansing Service for the twelve months ending 31st March, 1969 was £62,575 compared to £58,191 for the previous year.

The unit cost of collection and disposal was approximately :-

	£.	s.	d.
Net cost of collection per ton (22,000)...	2	10	4
Net cost of disposal per ton ...		6	7
Net cost of collection per 1,000 population (54)	1,024	13	10
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 population ...	134	2	5
Net cost of collection per 1,000 premises (18)	3,074	1	5
Net cost of disposal per 1,000 premises	402	7	2

CIVIC AMENITIES ACT, 1967

(a) Disposal of refuse

As I have previously reported, this Act places an obligation on local authorities to provide places where refuse, other than trade refuse, may be deposited free of charge by residents.

The difficulties of providing convenient sites over a wide area are very great, and it was decided to provide an additional service in that this local authority would, upon notification, arrange for the collection and disposal of bulky items of a nature that could not be taken in the normal refuse collection vehicle. The service was advertised in the local press and, in addition printed details were

included in rate demand notices sent out during the year. The system has worked exceedingly well, and the staggering response to the service can be assessed from the following information, giving details of items which were collected and disposed of during the year :-

Beds, mattresses, cots, chairs and seats	256
Washing machines, spin dryers, wringers and coppers	56
Prams, bicycles, mowers, rollers and wheelbarrows	71
Three-piece suites, wardrobes, tables and refrigerators	72
Radios, record players and pianos	36
Fires, radiators, boilers, sinks, baths and cisterns ..	55
Carpets, linoleum, dustbins and coal bunkers ..	30
Doors, windows and sheds ..	18
Other items and general refuse including rubble, garden refuse, tiles, tins, wood, metal boxes, paper, concrete, ladders etc.	256
<hr/>	
Total number items collected	850
<hr/>	
Total number of collections made	552

It is to be regretted however that not everyone takes advantage of the benefits of this legislation, as I have to report that there is a growing increase in the number of cases of illicitly deposited rubbish and refuse on waste land, roadside verges and ditches within the Rural District. The investigation of these circumstances is both lengthy and time consuming, with the preparation of reports and statements and attendance at Magistrates Court for the subsequent legal proceedings which the Council invariably authorise. Irrespective of the publicity gained in these cases, unfortunately, it does not appear an adequate deterrent to the unprincipled individuals who commit offences of this nature.

Whilst reporting on this matter I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Police for their co-operation in the investigation of offences committed by persons living outside the Rural District.

During the year 10 cases were successfully prosecuted and, in total, fines of £91, with costs of £48. 19. 6d, were imposed.

(b) Removal and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles

During the year 37 vehicles were either left or abandoned by their owners within the Rural District. Whilst this legislation, in conjunction with the Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Regulations 1968, now provides the requisite enforceable legislation, it unfortunately

necessitates an extremely complicated formal procedure being followed, with the corresponding service of multiple notices and the maintenance of a comprehensive records in order to comply with the statutory requirements. This, again, involves a loss of time to the inspectorate, which bears little proportionate comparison to the results achieved.

Reasonably satisfactory arrangements have been made with a local firm of car breakers for the removal and disposal of vehicles after expiration of the prescribed periods and, although it has not been possible for various circumstances, to institute proceedings against offenders, a considerable number of individuals, who have been successfully traced, have been required to pay the statutory removal and disposal charges.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Council's Rodent Officers made a total of 1,961 visits during the year, in connection with the eradication of rodents. This figure represents an increase of 500 over the previous year and approximately 160% over 1966. The vast increase can be accounted for by the appointment of a full-time Rodent Officer in late 1966, to supplement the work carried out by the Sanitary Foreman, and the introduction in 1968 of a comprehensive individual recording system, which has greatly improved the overall efficiency of the service.

Whilst commenting on this service it is worthwhile reporting that there appears to be an ever increasing interest shown in the Council's Contract Scheme, particularly by farmers and business operatives. The number of contracts entered into during the year reached 32, and a useful income of approximately £400 accrued.

Details of all rodent control work carried out by the Council is contained in the following table :-

Summary of all Rodent Disinfestation Works Carried Out by the Department During 1968

Class of Premises	Domestic		Business		Contracts	Agricultural	Local Authorities
Infestation	Rats	Mice	Rats	Mice	Rats & Mice	Rats	Rats
No. of Infestations Dealt with	14 ⁰	37	36	10	Regular * Treatments	16	19
No. of Visits made	701	95	15 ⁰	26	782	83	12 ⁰
No. of Points Laid	1,508	163	1,056	83	5,556	591	1,251
Weight Poison Used (lbs.)	326	8	200	9	1,005	119	234
Estimated Kill	1 228	329	766	1 ⁰ 4	5,5 ⁰ 6	562	802
No. of Bodies Found	142	95	212	28	629	88	160

Total number of infestations	...	...	...	266 * (excluding contract work)
Total number of visits made	...	...	...	1,961
Total number of points laid	...	...	...	10,20 ⁰
Total weight of poison used	...	...	...	16 cwt. 3 qts 25 lbs.
Total estimated kill	...	...	...	9,457
Total number of bodies found	...	...	...	1 354

In addition to the above, 6⁰ visits were made by Public Health Inspectors to all classes of premises, in an examination and advisory capacity

Once again the resources of the Department have been extended in the service of the ratepayer in connection with miscellaneous complaints, not, of course, covered by the provisions of the Act. During the year wasps nests have been destroyed, premises disinfested of beetles, ants etc. dead dogs removed and disposed of, moles have been cleared at premises and many drain tests were carried out.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

During the year a complete survey of all factory premises was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors. Numerous contraventions of the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1932, were noted, and action taken in order to secure remedial action

It will be noted from the table below that there are no factory premises remaining in the district where mechanical power is not used i. e. (Premises where Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by the local authority). The survey revealed that some of the previously registered factories had been discontinued and others had installed machinery, thereby transferring responsibility for enforcement to the factory inspectorate

Inspections carried out were as follows :-

PREMISES	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	Nil	--	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	129	219	26	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises)	8	8	3	-
TOTAL	137	227	29	-

The table set out overleaf shows the defects found, and action taken as a result of the inspection carried out :-

	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found				Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	—		—		—
Overcrowding	—		—		—
Unreasonable temperatures	—		—		—
Inadequate ventilation	—		—		—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—		—		—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	2	1	—	Nil	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	24	16	16	Nil	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	3	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	29	18	—	—	—

Outworkers

Nil

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

A total of 196 visits were made in accordance with the provision of the above mentioned legislation during the year, with 55 premises receiving a general inspection. The majority of visits were for re-inspection purposes and it is regretted that it must be reported that, due to lack of staff and pressure of other public health work, initial inspections of premises were mainly restricted to those in respect of which O.S.R.1. Registration Forms had been submitted. The total number of premises now registered is 124, but it is known that many other premises to which the legislation applied have, up to the present time escaped attention. Whereas occupiers of the larger type of shop businesses seem to complete form O.S.R.1. as a matter of course, many smaller shopkeepers, with few employees, do not realize their obligation to register their premises with the local authority. Complete registration will ultimately require a thorough parish by parish survey of the District, but in relation to present staffing

commitments it is unlikely that these obligations will be met in the foreseeable future. As this Act has been in force for nearly five years this state of affairs can only be classed as highly unsatisfactory. Informal notices were served upon 18 premises for 54 contraventions of the Act, and a total of 106 contraventions were remedied after **revisits**.

Once again the contraventions found ranged over almost the whole of the relevant sections with the maximum number of contraventions being in respect of Section 9 (sanitary conveniences) with 14 contraventions, Section 50 (abstracts) with 2 contraventions and Section 10 (washing facilities) 7 contraventions. Of the remaining contraventions it is interesting to note that one under Section 5 (overcrowding), resulted from the use of a caravan for office purposes and another (Section 15) concerned the non-provision of suitable and sufficient facilities at a grocery store where employees were expected to take their meals on the premises.

Accidents notified under Section 4^a amounted to a total of six only. None of these resulted in serious injury. In the main part human error appeared to be the main contributory factor, and there did not appear to be any steps which the employee could usefully have taken which would have materially affected the circumstances.

It has not been necessary to institute legal proceedings for non-compliance of the Act and Regulations made thereunder and, generally, informal intimations are at present sufficient to obtain the co-operation of employers. The legislation however is increasingly onerous, there are now 57 Circulars and Supplements relative to the administration and practical enforcement of the main legislation.

Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	Number of Premises Registered During the year	Number of Registered Premises at the end of year	Number of Registered Premises Receiving a General Inspection During the Year
Offices	3	25	5
Retail Shops	16	123	41
Wholesale shops, Warehouses	1	10	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	Nil	25	2
Fuel Storage Depots	Nil	1	Nil
TOTALS	20	164	55

TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTORS TO REGISTERED PREMISES UNDER THE ACT

Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions Found		Section	Number of Contraventions Found	
4	Cleanliness	1	13	Sitting Facilities	-
5	Overcrowding	1	14	Seats (Sedentary Works)-	
6	Temperature	5	15	Eating Facilities	1
7	Ventilation	2	16	Floors, Passage & Stairs	2
8	Lighting	2	17	Fencing Exposed Parts Machinery	2
9	Sanitary Conveniences	14	18	Protection of young persons from dangerous machinery	-
10	Washing Facilities	7	19	Training of young persons working at dangerous machinery	-
11	Supply of Drinking Water	-	23	Prohibition of heavy work	-
12	Clothing Accommodation	1	24	First Aid	1
				Other Matters	15
				TOTAL	54

HOUSING

Total number of visits made by Inspectors

509

(a) Housing Act 1957

Houses dealt with during the year by means of undertakings under section 16(4) of the Housing Act, 1957 have been dealt with under the Medical Officer's section of the report. 23

From 1st January, 1968 to 31st December, 1968, a total of 55 notices of an informal nature were served on the owners of 39 houses in a defective condition

Of these 26 were remedied before the end of the year and a further 20 notices outstanding from the previous year were complied with.

One statutory notice under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936 was served, but subsequently an undertaking was accepted in respect of the property

(b) Rent Act 1957

There were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair during the year

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Eighty seven visits were undertaken by the Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector and Deputy Engineer and Surveyor for the purpose of advising intending applicants for improvement grants. Of the 63 applications submitted 55 were in respect of standard grants and 8 for discretionary grants. All applications were subsequently approved.

The number of applications approved shows an increase of 16 over the previous year, although this total is insignificant in relation to comparison with previous years. Present basic and overall financial limits are, to some extent, restrictive and these facts have obviously been taken into account, nationally, which has consequently led to the more generous financial provisions incorporated in the new Housing Bill, which has been approved by Parliament since the end of the year now being reported on. There can be no doubt that the improvement grant scheme generally will receive an impetus which will stimulate interest and, without doubt, result in increased applications being received.

STANDARD GRANTS

		Owner-Occupied		Tenanted							
		5 point	3 point	5 point	3 point						
1	Applications received	28	-	27	-						
	Applications approved	28	-	27	-						
	Applications refused	-	-	-	-						
2	No. of dwellings improved	22	-	21	-						
3	Amount paid in grants	<table><tr><td>£.</td><td>s.</td><td>d.</td></tr><tr><td>8,906.</td><td>0.</td><td>0.</td></tr></table>				£.	s.	d.	8,906.	0.	0.
£.	s.	d.									
8,906.	0.	0.									
4.	Average grant per dwelling	<table><tr><td>207.</td><td>0.</td><td>0.</td></tr></table>				207.	0.	0.			
207.	0.	0.									

5.	Number of amenities provided :	(a) Fixed bath or shower	...	...	...	30
		(b) Wash-hand basin	...	...	...	29
		(c) Hot water supply (to any fittings)	...	...	...	29
		(d) Water closet	...	...	...	28
		(e) Food storage	...	...	...	20

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS

		Owner-Occupied	Tenanted		
1.	Applications received	5			3
2.	Applications approved	5			3
3.	Applications refused	—			—
4.	Number of dwellings improved	1			—
5.	Amount paid in Grants		£.	s.	d.
			51.	0.	0.
6.	Average grant per dwelling :		51.	0.	0.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

No new applications were received for caravan sites during the year and, following the deletion of three disused sites from the register, there remained a total of 28 sites. These provided spaces for 507 caravans and 12 chalets. Of the 28 sites, 24 are licensed for residential purposes, with the remaining four being either holiday or night halts.

Although few complaints were received from caravan occupants, it was ascertained from routine inspections that site conditions generally were deteriorating. Whilst every effort was made to secure improvements whenever possible, regretfully, because of staff shortages and pressure of other work, it was not possible to give full coverage to all of the sites during the course of the year. Of necessity, therefore, the institution of a complete and comprehensive survey must take priority during the next twelve month period.

It is important to record, however, that the welfare of caravan occupiers was not neglected and surveys of the major caravan sites were carried out in conjunction with the Staffordshire Fire Prevention Officer, resulting in improvements to safety precautions and measures at these sites by amendment of existing site licence conditions to incorporate the Fire Officer's recommendations. In addition, following a caravan fire, all site operatives and occupants were circulated with information relative to the dangers arising from the use of solid fuel heaters of the type constructed with flue pipes passing through overhead airing cupboards.

A total of 103 visits were made by the inspectorate to caravans during the year, although, of necessity many of these visits were to tinkers and travellers who regularly established themselves on roadside verges and waste land within the Rural District. One unfortunate aspect of these people, mainly Irish, is that they now tend to roam the countryside in large bands. Whereas this, no doubt, is an intentional "safety" factor, it nevertheless greatly increases the difficulties and nuisance they are invariably associated with.

THEATRES AND CINEMAS

During the year ten applications were received for the issue of "occasional" licences for the use of premises for the production of stage plays. In each instance the premises were inspected by the County Fire Prevention Officer and his recommendation incorporated in the Licensing Conditions. All applications were subsequently approved and, with one exception resulting from an objection to the application by the Fire Officer, as a result of non-compliance with recommendations made in respect of a previous production, the licences were correspondingly issued. The sole objection was subsequently withdrawn after completion of the required works prior to the date of the performance.

During the latter part of the year the Theatres Act, 1842, was superseded by the Theatres Act, 1968, and, as this necessitated re-delegation of existing powers from the Staffordshire County Council, all subsequent applications were forwarded to County Buildings, pending delegation renewal which is expected in the near future. With the exception outlined above, administration of the Act proceeded satisfactorily and licence conditions were generally observed.

One licence was granted for the continued use, in accordance with the Cinematograph Acts 1909 and 1952, of the only cinema operating within the District, together with consent for its use for children.

In respect of the administration of the above matters, I would like to express my appreciation to the County Fire Authority for their continued advice and assistance.

SCRAP METAL DEALERS ACT, 1964

This Act requires the three-yearly registration by the local authority of persons carrying on the business of scrap metal dealer within their area. Certain of the legislation related to records of scrap metal dealings are administered by the Police Authority.

During the year, on application, six existing licences were renewed upon expiration and seven were deleted from the register as a result of failure to make renewal application. Four new Certificates of Registration were issued, and at the end of the year a total of sixteen registrations were in force.

PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

There were 126 licences for the storage of petroleum-spirit issued during the year.

Once again several incidents occurred, any one of which could have had fatal results. When one reflects on the volatile nature of petroleum products and the circumstances attached to certain incidents it seems almost providential that disastrous consequences do not happen more frequently.

One such incident arose from an act of carelessness which did in fact result in the death of a garage mechanic and injury to a few other persons who were involved in a similar incident in Aldridge during the preceding year. It occurred as a result of the use by a mechanic of a wander lead lamp not being of the flame-proof or intrinsically safe type as recommended, clipped to the bonnet of a motor car in order to facilitate certain repair operations. The bulb to the lamp fractured and ignited petroleum vapours which extensively damaged the vehicle and resulted in burns to the mechanic concerned. Legal proceedings were

instituted in respect of a contravention of Section 10 of the Petroleum-Spirit (Motor Vehicles, etc.) Regulations, 1929 with the defendants being fined upon conviction

A further incident (at domestic premises) involving petroleum-spirit resulted in the fire brigade being called to a fire which damaged the car port and kitchen of a house. Again carelessness must be attributed to the householder who left an open can of petroleum-spirit on the car port floor which his small son sprinkled over the floor. The resultant vapours were subsequently ignited by the pilot flame of the gas boiler in the adjacent kitchen. Fortunately, before ignition took place the boy moved away from the area where the petrol was spilled with the result that all he suffered was slight burns. Providential without a doubt, but how many members of the general public really appreciate the distance petroleum vapours will travel?

During the summer a dangerous leakage occurred at a filling-station adjacent to a busy main road resultant from the heat of the sun expanding petroleum in the vent pipe to a pump. This is the second year that similar circumstances have arisen both fortunately allowing speedy precautionary and remedial measures to be instituted.

It was as a result of incidents similar to the above that it was decided to institute a complete and comprehensive survey of all licensed premises during the year. With the co-operation of Mr D Blacktop Chief Fire Officer of the Staffordshire County Fire Brigade and his Fire Prevention Officers, to whom I would express my appreciation, every installation within the Rural District was inspected, and a detailed inspection report for each completed. Consequently the majority of existing licences were drastically amended to incorporate more stringent conditions. In addition to this information was freely circulated to licensees relative to precautionary measures to be observed by employees engaged on operations involving the use of petroleum-spirit. In these circumstances, I feel certain that this local authority has, accordingly, not neglected its obligations to ensure that the storage installations within its District are, to all intents and purposes of sound basic construction. A lot of hard work has been achieved by the inspectorate and I hope that these intentions are realised by individual licensees ensuring that their employees are familiar with, and observe, the conditions and recommendations which have been made.

WATER SUPPLY

Only one complaint of unsatisfactory domestic water supply was received during the year. This complaint related to a blue discolouration, but chemical and bacteriological examination proved negative. It was suggested by the Analyst that blue discolouration can sometimes originate

from a metallic content in the water derived from copper pipework. However, no presence of copper in any quantity was revealed.

One further sample of water from the domestic main supply proved to be satisfactory and a series of samples from premises served by boreholes, and taken by the Staffordshire County Council Health Department, gave similar results.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES

(a) Meat Inspection

The number of animals slaughtered during the year in the District at the eight licensed slaughterhouses was 70,079. Although a reduction of approximately 3,000 from the 1967 totals the figures represent a return to the levels of earlier years. Whilst the number of bovine animals slaughtered increased by some 700 animals, the number of pigs, sheep and lambs, slaughtered fell by approximately 1,000 in each category, with the more significant reduction in slaughtered calves of nearly 2,300.

As in previous years much of the inspection work is undertaken outside normal working hours and, although hours of slaughter have been regulated, it must be pointed out that the impracticability of being in attendance at each abattoir at the cessation of slaughter, and the large distances to be travelled between visits, does not significantly reduce the total number of hours that each inspector is required to work. Due to the diligence of the inspectorial staff, a 100% inspection service has been maintained.

Once again no bovine animal was condemned as a result of generalised tuberculosis. In fact, no localised infection was detected, although the number of pigs affected by avian tuberculosis rose from 31 in 1967 to 67 in the current year, resulting in condemnation of the affected areas. Six localised cases of bovine cysticercus bovis were detected, compared with only one case in the previous year. A rise in the number of pigs suffering from generalised abscesses was again evident, apparently being a predisposing condition related to extensive rearing practices.

The total amount of meat and offal condemned as being unfit for human consumption was 29 tons 11 cwt 1 qtr 20 lbs, being a reduction of some 4½ tons on the previous year. Once again a significant amount of bovine offal, particularly livers affected by fascioli infections and abscesses, was condemned together with large quantities of sheep offal condemned for similar reasons. The latter is due to the large numbers of old ewes slaughtered (under contract) for the Mohammedan trade at one of the slaughterhouses.

The following statistics give details of the meat inspection service during the year :-

	CATTLE	CALVES	PIGS	SHEEP AND LAMBS	GOATS
Carcases inspected	6,972	1,229	11,440	50,415	13
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>					
Whole Carcase condemned	20	6	7	65	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1,359	33	772	5,144	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	19.78%	3.15%	6.37%	10.33%	0%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	-	-	67	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease	-	-	0.59%	-	-
<u>Cystercosis</u>					
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	6	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

DISEASED MEAT AND OFFALS

All Diseases except Tuberculosis		Tons	Cwt	Qrs.	Lbs.
CATTLE:	Carcase meat	7	19	1	14
	Offal	7	14	2	16
CALVES:	Carcase meat	-	3	2	9
	Offal	-	-	1	16
PIGS:	Carcase meat		13	1	27
	Offal	-	16	0	7
SHEEP:	Carcase meat	1	1	2	9
	Offal	10	15	2	6
		29	4	2	20
Tuberculosis only					
PIGS:	Carcase meat	-	6	3	0
* Total weight of meat and offal condemned		29	11	1	20

* This figure represents a reduction of nearly 4¹/₂ tons from last years figure.

(b) Other Foods

Condemnation certificates have also been issued in respect of the following foodstuffs :-

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Cwt</u>	<u>Qrts</u>	<u>lbs</u>	<u>ozs.</u>
150 tins fruit	-	1	2	10	1
123 tins vegetables	-	-	3	8	-
603 tins meat	-	9	3	16	6
3 tins milk	-	-	-	1	12
12 packets vegetables	-	-	-	6	12
21 packets of fish	-	-	1	17	1
24 tins soup	-	-	-	15	7
4 tins sponge pudding	-	-	-	1	11
40 tins milk pudding	-	-	1	12	-
13 tins fruit juices	-	-	-	17	1
2 jars sauces	-	-	-	-	12
23 jars coffee	-	-	-	8	12
1 jar marmalade	-	-	-	1	-
75 blocks ice-cream	-	-	-	14	8
16 tins baby food	-	-	-	4	1
14 packets pastry	-	-	-	7	-
283 packets flour	-	7	-	3	-
confectionery	-	-	-	-	8
bacon	-	15	3	17	-
pork	-	-	-	8	-
17 meat pies and rolls	-	-	-	7	8
12 portions chicken	-	-	-	6	-
	1	9	3	13	4

The total weight of other foodstuffs condemned in 1966 was 2 tons 19 cwts 3 qts 3 lbs 11 ozs. In addition to the above, 117 tons of potatoes were condemned at a farm storage clamp after negotiations with the Potato Marketing Board.

(c) The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1952

After a break in the early part of the year as a result of work in connection with the foot and mouth disease outbreak, regular quarterly inspections were carried out at each of the eight private slaughterhouses in conjunction with the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. No adverse criticism resulted from these inspections and I am informed that standards in the Rural District compare very favourably with those in the remainder of the County.

The general improvements carried out by two slaughterhouse operatives in the previous year, by the installation of cold blowers, has proved to be extremely beneficial and the trend appears to be continuing, with the approval of plans for increased hanging accommodation at a further slaughterhouse. Additionally, another operative has formulated proposals to enlarge his cooling room together with the construction of new lairage accommodation.

The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) (Amendment) Regulations 1966, came into operation on the 1st November, 1966, prohibiting the use of wiping cloths in the dressing of carcasses, and requiring in substitution the use of water spraying equipment. There can be no doubt that the previous use of wiping cloths in the past has been an extremely undesirable practice which, irrespective of the standards of slaughtermen, has greatly assisted the dissemination of bacterial organisms over meat surfaces. Initially, a certain amount of reluctance was expressed by slaughterhouse operatives who, in particular, were concerned that the excess moisture would have adverse effects on the keeping qualities of meat. In practice, however, it would appear that these fears were somewhat exaggerated and unfounded, and generally the use of water sprays has been accepted as a distinct improvement over old methods. In my opinion this legislation has been a great step forward, although much still remains to be done in the field of slaughterhouse hygiene.

Whilst on the subject of slaughtering and slaughterhouses I feel I must take this opportunity of commenting on the Mohammedan method of slaughter, which received prominent national attention during the year. Existing legislation of course, permits this type of religious slaughter, during which the unfortunate animals have their throats cut whilst fully conscious. One slaughterhouse within this District kills over 10,000 sheep each year by this method and over 300,000 animals are similarly slaughtered throughout the country as a whole. The Rural District Council fully supported a Private Members Bill submitted by Mr. David Ensor, M.P., to abolish this method of slaughter. Most regrettably, the Bill was heavily defeated in Parliament, and one wonders what pressures were brought about to justify such an outrageous result. It can surely be stated quite categorically, and without fear of contradiction, that an overwhelming proportion of the electorate would, without doubt, favour the abolition of this method of slaughter, and it is to be hoped that this set-back will not deter those in authority from doing everything in their power to achieve the termination of this uncivilised and inhuman procedure.

(d) The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

During the early part of the year the comprehensive survey of all food premises within the Rural District, commenced in 1966, was completed. From this survey a complete classified records system, incorporating full details relative to each particular class of trade, has been established and from this information it is anticipated that the efficiency and effectiveness of routine inspection and administrative work will be greatly improved. The introduction of premises of modern design, both as a result of new construction and improvements to existing premises together with the gradual installation of superior fittings and equipment, does not lessen the public health inspector's duty to ensure the hygienic operation of such food businesses. Indeed, food hygiene duties during the year necessitated nearly 700 inspections being carried out. Food hygiene and the advancement of standards is important, and I have previously advocated that the strengthening of the existing legislation is long overdue.

Ideally, food hygiene duties should be planned to ensure that all premises irrespective of the standards normally maintained receive regular visits, and should provide for the implementation of educational instruction relative to good food hygiene practice and technique. Due to staff shortages, far too little attention is given to the education of food handlers, who, it is regretted to say, are employed by an industry which, as a result of the poor comparative wages and conditions it offers does not generally attract employees of the highest qualities.

Fortunately, the general public are becoming increasingly selective in the food establishments they patronize, but we do appear to have reached a levelling-off period which will necessitate a fresh approach being taken. The strengthening of existing legislation will undoubtedly be a great help in providing the impetus necessary to raise present standards to more idealistic levels.

Full details of the inspections are appended below :-

Total number of premises inspected ..	109
Total number of inspections and reinspections	692
Total number of notices served	180

CONTRAVENTION	No. of Contra-ventions found	Contraventions complied with *
1. Sink provided for washing food and equipment		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	12	19
(b) No sink provided	2	10
(c) Sink defective	11	3
(d) In room communicating with water closet	2	1
2. Wash-hand basins		
(a) Inadequate quantity of hot water	16	14
(b) No wash-hand basin provided	3	2
(c) Defective	10	9
(d) No soap towels nailbrushes provided	52	40
3. Foodrooms		
(a) Structure in state of disrepair etc.	76	57
(b) In need of redecoration	40	32
(c) Communicates directly with sanitary convenience	7	18
(d) Furnishings utensils and equipment dirty or defective	52	43
(e) Food exposed to risk of contamination	36	29
(f) Inadequate lighting and ventilation	12	11
(g) No proper storage for outdoor clothing etc	6	9
(h) Accumulations of refuse and miscellaneous rubbish	30	21
(i) Inadequate facilities for preparation and storage of food	19	10
4. Sanitary Accommodation		
(a) Inadequate defective dirty or otherwise unsatisfactory	27	34
(b) No handwashing notices displayed	17	14
5. Evidence of smoking	12	6

CONTRAVENTION	No of Contra- ventions found	Contraventions complied with *
6 Unhygienic practices discovered	19	16
7. Drainage defective	9	9
8. No first aid equipment provided	12	17
9. Inadequate or unsatisfactory refuse storage	10	17
10. Premises so unsatisfactory as to warrant complete closure	2	2
* TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS:	520	
* TOTAL NO. OF CONTRAVENTIONS COMPLIED WITH (TO DATE)		504

* These totals include contraventions complied with during the year in respect of notices served in 1967. The total number of contraventions detected since the new comprehensive survey commenced in 1966 is 2,039 since which time 57 premises have been inspected necessitating 1,221 visits and re-inspections and the service of 637 notices.

(e) Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There were 18 complaints, an increase of 7 over the previous year, of unsound food or foreign matter and would in food investigated during the year as follows :-

Food	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken	Costs and Fines
Sponge Roll	Mould	Legal Proceedings Warrant defence pleaded by defendants against manufacturers	£10. fine and £52. 3. 0d. costs Manufacturers awarded £150 costs
Cream Cakes	Mould	Legal Proceedings	£35. 10. 0d
Bottle of Milk	Mould and Mineral Debris	Legal Proceedings	£20. 10. 0d
Pork Pie	Mould	Legal Proceedings	£30. 10. 0d.
Meat Pies	Mould	Legal Proceedings	£35. 12. 6d.
Table Salt	Contained 2½" piece of steel rod	Strong warning issued to Manufacturers	
Pork Sausage	Abnormal odour and taste	Complaint not confirmed by laboratory examination. Manufacturers advised of nature of complaint	
Potato Crisps	Contained large black beetle	Investigation revealed that beetle had gained access after distribution	
Lemonade	Mould Spores	Strong warning issued to manufacturers	
Potatoes (117 tons)	Unfit	Authority obtained from Potato Marketing Board to condemn and dispose of	
Meat Products	Staleness	Sold from mobile shop. Vendors advised to ensure more efficient preparation and marketing methods enforced	
Peanuts	Contained small metal screw	Manufacturer's investigation revealed defective packing machine Modifications carried out	

Food	Nature of Complaint	Action Taken
Bread	Discolouration	Found to be due to excessive use of mineral lubricating oil on slicing machine. Warning issued to manufacturers
Milk	Dirt in bottle	Not detected in laboratory examination, but evidence found that bottle used as a launching pad for firework rocket, leaving residue not removed by normal washing procedures. Warning issued
Tomatoes	Rusty tin	Consignment investigated by importers - no further evidence. Warning issued
Frozen Peas	Splinter of Wood	Warning to manufacturers
Semolina	Contained live insects and mites	Shop stock examined and two further contaminated packets found. Complainant not prepared to give evidence. Strong warning to shop-keeper
Cake	Mould	Strong warning issued to vendor

(f) The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations,
1966

The regular inspection of food vehicles plying the district was continued during the year. I regret to report that, with certain notable exceptions, many firms pay scant attention to the regular cleansing of their food delivery vehicles, and as a result, the issue of warnings becomes a matter of almost regular monotony. One must make the point that many of these vehicles are carrying open and unwrapped food commodities of a susceptible nature and it is not uncommon, during the inspection of bakers' vehicles, to discover cream cakes covered with a film of dirt and dust. This type of product, for example, if not adequately prepacked, should be conveyed in a separate compartment, so constructed as to exclude risk of external contamination. Many bakery firms, anxious to cater for a public demand which still largely resists prepacked cakes, are gradually replacing older vehicles with transport of modern specialist design. Many others, unfortunately, continue the use of unsuitable vehicles and aggravate the circumstances by neglectful routine cleansing and inadequate supervision.

Fifty five informal warnings were issued to delivery firms during the year. One butcher received a strong formal warning relative to the use of a mobile butcher shop which was not provided with the required facilities.

